

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 13. (canceled)

14. (new): A method of performing color processing to output color data to an image processing component, comprising the steps of:

acquiring spectral data which indicates an input color;

determining a color data format of color data in accordance with information of the image processing component to transmit the color data to the image processing component;

generating the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and

outputting the generated color data to the image processing component,

wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format, and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and said generating step includes calculating the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format in said determining step.

15. (new): The method according to claim 14, wherein the acquired spectral data is output to the image processing component when the spectral data format is determined as the color data format in said determining step.

16. (new): The method according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of color component data are generated by convolution calculation of the spectral data and a color matching function.

17. (new): The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of obtaining the information, for which the color data format is determined, from the image processing component.

18. (new): A computer program product stored in a computer readable medium comprising computer program code for a method of performing color processing to output color data to an image processing component, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring spectral data which indicates an input color;

determining a color data format of color data in accordance with information of the image processing component to transmit the color data to the image processing component;

generating the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and

outputting the generated color data to the image processing component,

wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format, and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and said generating step includes calculating the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format in said determining step.

19. (new): An image processing apparatus for performing color processing to output color data to an image processing component, comprising:

an acquiring section, arranged to obtain spectral data which indicates an input color;

a determiner, arranged to determine a color data format of color data in accordance with information of the image processing component to transmit the color data to the image processing component;

a generator, arranged to generate the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and

an outputting section, arranged to output the generated color data to the image processing component,

wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format, and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and said generator calculates the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format by said determiner.